

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1480 without my signature.

While I appreciate the author's efforts to ensure the safety of California's ports by requiring tug boat escorts for vessels carrying specified hazardous materials, I am concerned that this bill would duplicate existing authorities and is inconsistent with advice from the experts on the State's harbor safety committees.

Protecting public safety and the environment from a potential spill of hazardous material is of paramount importance. California must do all it can to minimize the possibility of such a disaster. However, there are neither ship design issues nor a pattern of problems suggesting these vessels need tugboat escorts. In fact, since the creation of the Office of Spill Prevention and Response, there have been no reported harbor accidents involving ships carrying any of these materials.

The San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee considered the use of tugboat escorts for these types of vessels and concluded that escorts are not necessary, particularly since the US Coast Guard already exercises the authority to require tug escorts for any problem vessel. The Office of Spill Prevention and Response within the Resources Agency also has authority over this issue.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger